



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**for**  
**Wednesday, February 26, 2003**  
**Art Pick Council Chambers – 5:30 P.M.**  
**3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA**

Present: Commissioners Brewer, Davidson, Floyd\*, Garcia, Gardner, Hendrick, Howe, Huerta and Ward

Absent:

\* Commissioner Floyd arrived at 5:46

**The following proceedings have been digitally recorded. For copies please call the CPRC office at (909) 826-5509.**

**Roll Call**

Commissioner Brewer led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Sherron took roll call.

**Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Gardner moved to approve the minutes for the January regular meeting. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion. Commissioner Ward moved to approve the minutes for the January 29 case review meeting. Commissioner Howe seconded the motion. Commissioner Hendrick moved to approve the minutes for the February 5 special meeting. Commissioner Huerta seconded the motion. Commissioner Gardner moved to approve the minutes for the February 12 case review meeting. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion. All motions passed unanimously except for the February 12 case review meeting, which had one abstention.

**Executive Director's Report & Comments**

Mr. Williams brought the Commission up to date on the three officer-involved death cases on which the CPRC investigators are currently working. Interviews of civilian witnesses in these cases have been completed and he said we are waiting for the D.A.'s criminal reports to be released in order to complete that portion of the report so that a public report can be issued. Mr. Williams said he doesn't know when the criminal reports will become available. He said that he hopes to have them by May.

Mr. Williams told the Commission that the first draft of the CPRC's 2002 Annual Report has been completed. He said he was going to send a copy to four different people to have "fresh eyes" review the report. After this review, changes and corrections would be made and a copy of the updated report would be given to the commissioners at the March 12 case review meeting. He said he hope for Commission approval at the March 26 regular meeting and go to Council as soon as possible.

Mr. Williams next advised the Commission that the initial budget for 2003 / 2004 had been completed. He said that the budget was cut five percent but the CPRC budget looks good. He said there is no indication that there will be any further cuts. He suggested having someone from Budget speak to the Commission about the budget and the budget process and said he talk to the new CPRC officers about this.

### **Commissioner's Comments**

Commissioner Huerta noted that no one had anticipated three officer-involved death investigations so close together. She asked if the upcoming budget would cover a similar situation if necessary.

Mr. Williams said the Commission would be able to conduct three outside investigations. He said that one of the current investigations is costing around \$15,000, but that the other two would be less. He said if there were four, it would depend on how extensive they were. He said that he has spoken with a few councilmembers who told him that if more money was needed for investigations, to come to Council. He said that was a couple of years ago, though, and there weren't budget problems at the time. But he said he didn't expect any problems unless there was some "horrendous" thing happen.

Commissioner Huerta asked Mr. Williams if he was getting regular updates from RPD on the officer-involved deaths. She noted that the Commission had asked Chief Leach to send updates via the Executive Director.

Mr. Williams said yes and noted that he'd been advised that RPD had finished the Munoz case and that it had been sent to the D.A.'s office. He said he believed the other two were still in-house being finalized.

Commissioner Huerta asked when the Commission was going to be voting for new CPRC officers. She said she was under the impression that officers were to be selected at this meeting.

Mr. Williams said that had been the intention. However, it was learned that the City Charter says officers are to be selected at the first meeting in March.

Commissioner Hendrick asked Chairman Brewer if he had been able to speak with anyone from RPD regarding its emergency traffic plan and if there had been any follow up from RPD.

Chairman Brewer said that the traffic sergeant was not at Mayor's Night Out. He said that they did speak to the Chief about the issue while at a meeting. He said that they have conducted studies and that RPD does have plans for disasters but not for daily type incidents.

Commissioner Hendrick said that the incidents to which he had referred were not daily incidents. (One was a power outage due to high winds; the other was a traffic accident on the 91 affecting surface streets.) He said his intent was to get some kind of report from RPD.

Chairman Brewer said RPD does have a plan for emergencies, but that they don't have enough manpower to cover all intersections.

Commissioner Hendrick said he had asked for a copy of the traffic plan that the watch commander with whom he had spoken had told him was under development.

There was a brief discussion as to whether this issue is within the purview of the Commission. Chairman Brewer asked the Executive Director to submit a letter to the RPD asking if there is a traffic plan to handle emergencies such as power outages, etc.

Mr. Williams asked Commissioner Hendrick if he was interested in having the appropriate person from RPD speak to the Commission on this issue and answer any questions the commissioners might have. Commissioner Hendrick said he was and said he had asked to have someone from RPD address the Commission on this issue. Mr. Williams said he would check into this and try to schedule someone for the

March meeting.

Commissioner Garcia said there would be a Cinco de Mayo festival in Casa Blanca on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> from noon to 9:00 p.m. He said there would be some City departments there to provide information to citizens and asked if any commissioners would be able to man a booth.

Chairman Brewer asked Mr. Williams if the CPRC would be setting up a booth. Mr. Williams said that could be done as long as there were commissioners who could man the booth. He said he would talk to Commissioner Garcia about schedules.

### **Public Comments**

Ms. Jennifer Safford addressed the Commission regarding a complaint her boyfriend had filed, which the Commission had reviewed on February 12. (Documents were also given to the Commission to review.) She asked that the Commission reopen the case, as she and her boyfriend were never interviewed by RPD. She said that an interview had been scheduled, but the officer couldn't make it. A second interview was scheduled, but their attorney was unable to attend. She said the case was finalized without them being interviewed.

She said she is concerned about retaliation from this officer and asked if their only other course of action is to file another complaint. Chairman Brewer told her that she could file a complaint directly with the Commission, but that it would go to RPD for investigation. Commissioner Floyd said that it was his understanding that the Commission could initiate its own investigation using its own staff, which Mr. Williams confirmed.

Chairman Brewer told Ms. Safford the location of the CPRC office if she wished to file another complaint with the Commission. Ms. Safford said that the officer and the officer's supervisors would still be contacted even if a complaint were filed with the Commission and that retaliation from this officer would still be a concern.

Ms. Safford asked how they would be notified of the findings. Chairman Brewer advised her that she would be notified by the City Manager's Office of the case findings.

Mr. Williams suggested that Ms. Safford contact the supervisor in Code Compliance to find out why they are still being given parking tickets. Ms. Safford said they've spoken with Code and Legal. Mr. Williams advised her to speak with a supervisor if her questions weren't answered.

### **Discuss and Vote on Proposed Amendments to CPRC By-Laws and Policies & Procedures**

Vice-Chair Gardner, committee chair, said he had received comments and suggestions from the various commissioners regarding the proposed amendments, but noted that there had been no input received from the public. Each proposed amendment was reviewed with periodic discussion. All amendments were approved with the exception of one in a section of the Policies & Procedures due to legal questions. Mr. Williams suggested an attorney / client meeting to which the commissioners agreed.

Commissioner Huerta made a motion to accept the By-Laws and Commissioner Hendrick seconded. Approval of the By-Laws was unanimous.

The Commission adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

PHOEBE SHERRON  
Sr. Office Specialist